

**SECRET**15-188  
606A**OGC HAS REVIEWED.**

18 October 1950

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: Registration of Agents of Foreign Powers**

1. In accordance with instructions from the DCI, I discussed with Mr. Foley, head of the Alien Registration Section of the Department of Justice, arrangements for handling the provision of the Internal Security Act of 1950 which amended the Registration Act of 1938 by requiring registration of people who have knowledge of or have received instruction or assignment in espionage, counter-espionage or sabotage services or tactics of a foreign country. As Mr. Foley and I discussed it, apparently the proponents of the Bill had hoped for two things: (1) to get a roster of people with knowledge of foreign espionage practices, and (2) to provide a continuing penalty for those in this country who had such knowledge and intended to put it to subversive use. Mr. Foley agreed with our position that this amendment probably would reveal very little in the way of a roster as there were too many exceptions in the Bill. He felt that actually the registration problem would be very small and would be largely from such persons as recently arrived aliens who were applicants for citizenship and might have served in one capacity or another in foreign services related to the espionage field or other activities within the meaning of the Act. We agreed that these people probably would and should approach the FBI.

2. Mr. Foley did state that from time to time he expected to get information from the FBI indicating that someone was obligated to register and had not done so. In such cases he would be compelled to request the individual to register or prove that he was not within the Act. I suggested that in such cases prior to any action Mr. Foley's office might inquire of CIA concerning the case both to see whether CIA could provide or develop further information or to permit CIA to determine whether the individual might be of the type for which the DCI was given authority by the Act to make a determination that registration would not be in the interest of national security. Mr. Foley readily agreed that it would be proper in his view to consult us before taking any action on such cases. We both agreed that information concerning such cases and all other information we might furnish concerning people

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who appeared to come under the Act should go to him through the Bureau, but if it were a case in which the Director would determine the registration was not in the interest of national security, we could merely inform him directly that from information in our records registration would not be required. Mr. Foley himself suggested that the method of informing him be such that special interest of CIA in the case not be revealed.

3. Mr. Foley's views on the new registration section seemed wholly in accord with those of CIA and the proposed arrangements seemed wholly satisfactory. The logical liaison point in CIA appears to be in OSO in the section headed by [REDACTED] Clearance on this point should be obtained from ADSO and Chief, Inspection and Security Staff.

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[REDACTED]  
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel  
Legal Staff

cc: ADSO  
Chief, I&SS

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

34962<sup>3</sup>

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Chief, Inspection and Security 2210 "E" Street	SE	25 Oct 50
2	ADSO - 1040 "L" Bldg.	Rob	47 Oct 50
3	AD/OPC - X <del>Legal Staff - 222 Admin Bldg.</del>	COH	7 Nov 50
4	Legal Staff X		
5			

FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	General Counsel	MIC	19 Oct 50
2			
3			

☒ APPROVAL ☐ INFORMATION ☐ SIGNATURE  
☐ ACTION ☐ DIRECT REPLY ☒ RETURN  
☒ COMMENT ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY ☐ DISPATCH  
☒ CONCURRENCE ☐ RECOMMENDATION ☐ FILE

REMARKS:

1. Attached is a memorandum setting forth the gist of my discussion with Mr. Foley on the registration of persons with espionage knowledge. Also attached is my draft of a letter to Mr. Foley establishing regular liaison arrangements. - *let*

2. All persons who are or have been in the service of CIA are exempted by law so there is no problem concerned about listing employees. (over)

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or others who acquired their knowledge through service with government agencies. The main category with which we are concerned are those who do not come within the statutory exemption but who should not, for one reason or another, be forced to register. I believe the approach of Mr. Foley is reasonable and in accord with our ideas. You will note the draft letter recommends that [REDACTED] be liaison officer and that the nature of the liaison is outlined.

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3. Would you please give me your concurrence, disapproval or comment. If you agree with this approach, I shall recommend that the Deputy Director sign the letter to Mr. Foley.



LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel  
Legal Staff

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